

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

WALTER DUANE WHITE,

Petitioner,

v.

**Civil Action No. 2:06cv93
(Judge Maxwell)**

WARDEN JOYCE FRANCIS,

Respondent.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

On September 25, 2006, the *pro se* petitioner filed an Application for Habeas Corpus Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Petitioner is an inmate at the Gilmer Federal Correctional Institution challenging the validity of a sentence imposed in this Court. This matter is pending before me for an initial review and Report and Recommendation pursuant to LR PL P 83.09.

I. The Petition

In the petition, Petitioner attacks the validity of his sentence via a § 2241 petition arguing that his sentence is unconstitutional, thereby making his waiver of his right to appeal void, and that he was denied the effective assistance of counsel. In support of his claims, Petitioner attaches a memorandum arguing that hearsay, conjecture, and innuendo are inadmissible under Rule 804(b) (3) of the Federal Rules of Evidence; that his sentence is void because his Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights were violated; that supervised release constitutes double jeopardy when coupled with imprisonment; that his sentence is void based on the holding in United States v.

Booker, 543 U.S. 2020, 233 (2005);¹ and finally, that supervised release is not a possible penalty for his criminal conviction.

II. Analysis

In his petition, Petitioner attacks the validity of his sentence rather than the means of execution and seeks release from his “void” sentence. Further, Petitioner HAS applied for relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 in the sentencing court. Thus, it is clear that Petitioner is now pursuing relief in this court under § 2241 because filing a motion under § 2255 in the sentencing court would be barred as a successive petition. See 28 U.S.C. § 2255. However, under these circumstances, Petitioner is expressly precluded by § 2255 from pursuing any relief under § 2241. Section 2255 states that an application such as Petitioner’s “shall not be entertained if it appears that the applicant has failed to apply for relief, by motion, to the court which sentenced him, or that such court denied him relief...”

Petitioner seeks to avoid the preclusive effect of that prohibition by invoking the “savings clause” in § 2255 which permits relief to be sought under § 2241 if it “appears that the remedy by motion [under § 2255] is inadequate or ineffective to test the legality of [the applicant’s] detention.” The law is clearly developed, however, that merely because relief has become unavailable under § 2255 because of a limitation bar, the prohibition against successive petitions, or a procedural bar due to failure to raise the issue on direct appeal, does not demonstrate that the § 2255 remedy is inadequate or ineffective. In re Vial, 115 F. 3d 1192, 1194 (4th Cir. 1997).

¹In Booker, the Court held that the mandatory sentencing guidelines violated a defendant’s Sixth Amendment right to a jury trial because a judge, not a jury, determines facts which could increase the defendant’s sentence beyond the sentence which could be imposed based on jury fact finding. Additionally, the Court severed the unconstitutional provisions from the Sentencing Reform Act, made the guidelines advisory, and established an unreasonableness standard of review for sentences on appeal.

The Fourth Circuit has examined the prerequisites for finding that § 2255 is an inadequate or ineffective remedy. In the case of In re Jones, 226 F.3d 328 (4th Cir. 2000), the Fourth Circuit concluded that:

§2255 is inadequate and ineffective to test the legality of a conviction when: (1) at the time of the conviction, settled law of this circuit or the Supreme Court established the legality of the conviction; (2) subsequent to the prisoner's direct appeal and first §2255 motion, the substantive law changed such that the conduct of which the prisoner was convicted is deemed not to be criminal; and (3) the prisoner cannot satisfy the gate-keeping provisions of §2255 because the new rule is not one of constitutional law.

Id. at 333-34.

Upon a review of the Petition, the undersigned finds that the claims raised in the Petition should have been raised either on appeal or in Petitioner's § 2255 motion. Moreover, there is nothing in Petitioner's § 2241 petition which demonstrates that he meets the Jones requirements. Consequently, Petitioner has not demonstrated that § 2255 is an inadequate or ineffective remedy, and he has improperly filed a § 2241 petition.

In addition, Petitioner's specific Booker and double jeopardy arguments are without merit. First, Petitioner claims that any sentence associated with the United States Sentencing Guidelines is per se void pursuant to Booker, supra. However, Petitioner was sentenced post Booker² and the mandatory sentencing guidelines were not applied to his sentence. Second, Petitioner claims supervised release in addition to a prison sentence is impermissible double jeopardy. However, the Double Jeopardy Clause, which ensures "total punishment [does] not exceed that authorized by the legislature," United States v. Bowe, 309 F.3d 234, 238 (4th Cir. 2002), is simply inapplicable to Petitioner's sentence that includes a period of supervised release

² Booker was decided on January 12, 2005. Petitioner was sentenced on November 2, 2005.

authorized by statute. 18 U.S.C. § 3583.

III. Recommendation

Based on the foregoing, the undersigned recommends that the petitioner's §2241 petition be **DENIED and DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.

Any party may file, within ten (10) days after being served with a copy of this Recommendation, with the Clerk of the Court, written objections identifying the portions of the Recommendation to which objections are made, and the basis for such objections. A copy of such objections should also be submitted to the Honorable Robert E. Maxwell, United States District Judge. Failure to timely file objections to the Recommendation set forth above will result in waiver of the right to appeal from a judgment of this Court based upon such Recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); Wright v. Collins, 766 F.2d 841 (4th Cir. 1985); United States v. Schronce, 727 F.2d 91 (4th Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 467 U.S. 1208 (1984).

The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Report and Recommendation to the *pro se* petitioner and any counsel of record.

DATED: September 25, 2006.

/s/ James E. Seibert
JAMES E. SEIBERT
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE